Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary's Advisory Council
Spill Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Restoration Work Group

Candidate Working Group Topics

Prevention

1. Area To Be Avoided (ATBA) – this measure routes large and hazardous cargo vessel traffic offshore in the sanctuary. Compliance is voluntary, with very high rates of compliance. OCNMS routinely conducts compliance monitoring and outreach to encourage compliance.

2. Tug & Barge Traffic Lanes – due to slow travel rates, tug and barge traffic lanes differ from large vessel lanes, which may create potential risk.

3. Vessel discharges (bilge, gray/black, other) – some discharges may introduce chemical contaminants. Cruise ship operational (wastewater) discharges are being addressed by the Living Resource Conservation working group.

4. Estimates of activity by vessel type – related to work of Socioeconomic Values working group, sanctuary management will be informed by a better understanding and characterization of ongoing vessel traffic.

Preparedness

1. NW Area Committee and Area Contingency Plan (ACP) – This committee regularly updates and improves the NW ACP. NOAA/ORR has a representative on the NW Area Committee.

2. Geographic Response (GRP) Plans – WA Dept. of Ecology periodically reviews GRPs to improve initial response to incidents. Two GRPs are relevant to the sanctuary - Outer Coast and Strait of Juan de Fuca.

3. GIS Database – OCNMS maintains a GIS database dedicated to information useful in spill response and participation in Incident Command.

4. OCNMS Contingency Plan – the sanctuary has a site specific contingency plan for spill response.

5. USCG Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – a sanctuary-USCG MOU outlines agency responsibilities associated with spill response and enforcement.

6. Coordination with Industry Groups/Ports -

7. Coordination with Co-trustees – OCNMS periodically convenes an "Outer Coast Trustees Group" to discuss spills response issues, share training opportunities, etc.

8. Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) maps – ESI maps indicate the relative risk of long-term shoreline impacts from oil and may be used to prioritize response and cleanup efforts. ESI maps were produced years ago, and those for most of the outer coast are not available digitally.

9. Drills – sanctuary staff participation in drills is important to improving their effectiveness. Also, drills, including equipment deployment drills, off the outer coast improve response capacity and understanding of feasibility of response technology use during actual events. Various types of spill response exercises and drills- table top, field deployment, NRDA – could be encouraged to focus on the outer coast of Washington..

10. Dispersant Policy/Decision Making – In the NWACP, the sanctuary area is not pre-approved for dispersant application. The sanctuary is given opportunity to express natural resource impacts concerns about dispersant use before Incident Command makes a decision about dispersant use.

11. Staff Training – With proper training, sanctuary staff can participate more effectively in spill response.

<u>Response</u>

1. Roles in Incident Command – Sanctuary staff can participate in a response and serve in various roles – Environmental Unit, Joint Information Center, Liaison, etc.

2. Marine Debris – OCNMS might contribute to planning or response-oriented decisions about marine debris during spill events and vessel causalities.

3. Pre-emptive policies (e.g., remove beach logs in advance of oiling, etc.) – some policies might be developed in advance of an ongoing response effort. These policies would likely require collaboration with joint authorities (i.e., Olympic National Park, Tribes, US Fish and Wildlife Service).

<u>Restoration/Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA)</u>

1. Coordinating with Co-trustees – coordination of co-trustees is essential to an effective NRDA response.

2. Establishing plans, priorities, and protocols – NRDA work can begin immediately during a spill event. Advance planning with co-trustees can improve the NRDA response.

3. Baseline data collection – baseline data for NRDA may be a goal of monitoring by OCNMS and partners, well in advance of a spill or in advance of a known spill as it approaches various natural resources.